

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /031 W

-----061750Z 086124 /53

P R 061525Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7930

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJ: CIVAIR - AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

REF: (A) JIDDA 2523, (B) JIDDA 2522, (C) STATE 71416

1. EMBASSY PASSED INVITATION REFTEL C, IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT, TO CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE (CAD) AIR TRANSPORT DIRECTOR, SADAT. SADAT NOTED SCHEDULE WAS TIGHT BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH CAD DIRECTOR MAHDI. HE HAS NOW INFORMED US THAT, BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS, CAD WILL BE UNABLE TO HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS AS EARLY AS APRIL 19-20. WE URGED SADAT (WHO WILL BE ATTENDING ICAO MONTREAL MEETING) TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON DATES NOTED, BUT HE SAID HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO DO SO.

2. SADAT MENTIONED THAT CAD WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A LETTER FROM USG STATING OUR READINESS TO SIGN BILATERAL AT SOME LATER DATE - PRESUMABLY AS WAY TO UNFREEZE TWA REQUEST FOR DHAHRAN LANDING RIGHTS (REFTEL B).

(WE NOTE IN THIS RESPECT THAT CAD LETTER OF MARCH 20 TO TWA SAID INTER ALIA QUOTE PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, THE SAG WOULD GRANT TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO TWA IF ASSURANCES

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ARE REACHED FROM EITHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE USCAB END QUOTE.) WE INFORMED SADAT THAT WE SAW NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH LETTER COMMITTING USG TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD BILATERAL, BUT COULD NOT PROMISE AGREEMENT UNTIL WE KNEW WHAT AGREEMENT MIGHT INCLUDE.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THIS SUDDEN

RELUCTANCE ON PART OF CAD, UNLESS SADAT AND MAHDI ARE
INDEED IRRETRIEVABLY COMMITTED ON DATES SUGGESTED.
PROPOSAL OF LETTER FROM USG MAY SIGNAL RELUCTANCE OF
CAD TO USE ITS LEVERAGE ON TWA THROUGHOUT POSSIBLY LONG
BILATERAL NEGOTIATION; SADAT AND MAHDI HAVE GIVEN CONTRA-
DICTORY SIGNALS ON THIS IN PAST. HOWEVER SURPRISING
THEIR TURNDOWN OF APRIL DATE FOR TALKS (AND WE MUST
ADMIT THAT LEAD TIME ON INVITATION WAS PRETTY SHORT), WE
EXPECT CAD WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR NEGOTIATION. NOW
THAT WE HAVE DROPPED OUR PREVIOUS STONEWALL TACTIC,
BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SOUND OUT CAD OFFICIALS IN
MONTREAL ON POSSIBLE FUTURE DATES. THEY NEED NOT BE
SOON, THE APPEARANCE OF PROGRESS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORT-
ANT THING. SAUDIA'S NEW FLEET PLAN (SEPTTEL) CONFIRMS
THAT AIRLINE WILL BE UNABLE TO CONSIDER STARTING NEW
YORK SERVICE BEFORE 1980.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA02621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770120-0339
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770483/aaaacugd.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 1e2354a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JIDDA 2523, 77 JIDDA 2522, 77 STATE 71416
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2884531
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT
TAGS: EAIR, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e2354a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009